



211A 2828 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of:

MINORU TAKEBE

Serial No: 09/284,935

Filed: May 3, 1999

For: BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM
PROPAGATION-PROMOTING
MATERIAL AND A PROCESS FOR
PREPARING THE SAME

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: V. Afremova

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2000, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting
material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain
the health of living beings, said material being obtained by steps of inoculating koji mold
on grains to [effect koji preparation] create a resultant, adding at most 50% by weight of
water to [a] said resultant [from said koji preparation] to thereby hydrolyze proteins
and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of
phytic acid contained in said [grains] hydrolyzed proteins and/or saccharides.

Rewrite claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting
material comprising a mixture of:

a product for promoting a propagation of beneficial microorganisms that
help to sustain the health of living beings obtained by inoculating koji mold on grains to